

### **REMARKS**

This Amendment is submitted in response to the Office Action mailed on June 15, 2007. Claims 1, 11, 18, 21, 28 and 29 have been amended, and claims 1-4, 6-11, 14-16, 18-22, 28 and 29 remain pending in the present application. In view of the foregoing amendments, as well as the following remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that this application is in complete condition for allowance and requests reconsideration of the application in this regard.

Claims 1, 3-6, 9, 11, 18-19, 21-22 and 28-29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Burgin, U.S. Patent No. 4,156,424. Claim 10 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Burgin in view of Brantigan, U.S. Patent No. 5,425,772. Claims 14 and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Burgin in view of Baynham et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,224,599. Claims 2, 16 and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Burgin. Lastly, claims 7 and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Burgin. While Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections, Applicant has amended each of independent claims 1, 11, 18, 21, 28 and 29 to more sharply define the claimed invention over the prior art of record and respectfully requests that the rejections be withdrawn.

In the Response to Arguments section of the Office Action, Examiner takes the position that the claims do not define over the prior art of record since they

allegedly require only that the first and second paddles “may be” pivoted or, alternatively, “being movable” or “pivotally movable” so as to be capable of not moving at all.

In response to Examiner’s position, Applicant has amended independent claim 1 to now recite that the first and second paddles “are pivotal” between the open and closed positions. Each of independent claims 11, 21, 28 and 29 has been amended to recite the first and second paddles “moving” relative to the bridge between the open and closed positions. Lastly, independent claim 18 has been amended to recite that each of the first and second paddles “pivotally moves” between the first and second positions.

Applicant respectfully submits that each of independent claims 1, 11, 18, 21, 28 and 29 has been amended to positively recite the pivotal movement of the first and second paddles so as to render Examiner’s position now moot. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejections of independent claims 1, 11, 18, 21, 28 and 29 be withdrawn.

Moreover, as claims 2-4, 6-10, 14-16 and 17-22 depend from allowable independent claims 1, 11, 18 and 21, respectively, and further as each of these claims recites a combination of elements not taught or suggested by the prior art of record, Applicant respectfully submits that these claims are allowable as well.

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### **Conclusion**

In view of the foregoing response including the amendments and remarks, this application is submitted to be in complete condition for allowance and early notice to this affect is earnestly solicited. If there is any issue that remains which may be resolved by telephone conference, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned in order to resolve the same and expedite the allowance of this application.

Applicant does not believe that this response requires that any fees be submitted, however, if any fees are deemed necessary, these may be charged to Deposit Account No. 23-3000.

Respectfully submitted,

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